

Applicants: Wieland *et al.*
Serial No.: 09/853,902
Filed: May 14, 2001
Amendment and Response to Final Office Action (February 15, 2006)
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REMARKS

The present application had claims 1-16 pending. Applicants have herein amended claims 1, 4 and 5, and has cancelled claim 3. The amendment to claim 1 simply adds the limitation of previously pending claim 3 to main claim 1. The amendments to claims 4 and 5 correct their dependency in light of the cancellation of claim 3. No new matter is added by the amendments.

In the September 27, 2005 Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over several cited prior art references. The Examiner also indicated that claims 3-16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In the present response, applicants have herein amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitation of previously pending claim 3. Of the claims indicated as allowable by the Examiner (claims 3-16), claim 3 was the broadest. The remaining allowable claims (claims 4-16) either directly or indirectly depend from claim 3. With the present amendment to claim 1 incorporating the limitation of claim 3, and the cancellation of previously pending claim 3, applicants believe that all the pending claims of the present application (claims 1, 2 and 4-16) are now in condition for allowance.

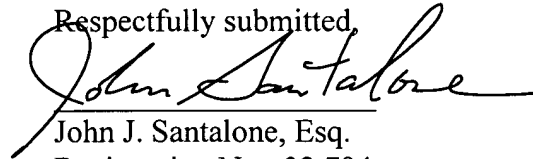
In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 2 set forth in the September 27, 2005 Office Action and allowance of the present application are respectfully solicited.

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$450.00, the required fee for the two month extension of time. No additional fee is believed to be due with respect to the filing of this response. If any additional fees are due, or overpayment has been made, please charge, or credit, Deposit No. 11-0171 for such sum.

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If the Examiner has any questions regarding the present application, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicants' attorney at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John J. Santalone", written over a horizontal line.

John J. Santalone, Esq.
Registration No.: 32,794
Attorney for Applicant

Kalow & Springut LLP
(212) 813-1600